

REMARKS

The Office Action

Claims 13-27 are pending. Claims 13, 14, 16, 17, and 19 are allowed. Claim 18 stands rejected for indefiniteness. Claims 15, 18, and 20-27 stand rejected for lack of enablement.

Amendments to the Claims

It is respectfully brought to the Examiner's attention that claims 15 and 20 have been amended without prejudice in order to avoid the present objections.

Claim 13 has also been amended to read on additional pteridine compounds that have descriptive support in examples 68, 103-116 and 118-120 of the application as originally filed.

The present amendments were made solely to expedite prosecution, and Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled subject matter in this or a continuing application. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections

Rejection of claim 18 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and rejection of claims 21-27 under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 are now moot since these claims have been cancelled.

With respect to the Examiner's rejection of claim 15 on the basis of lack of enablement, we respectfully submit that this rejection is now moot in view of the amendment introduced into claim 15 to focus on a particular embodiment of the invention. In view of the Examiner's acknowledgement on page 3 of the Action that the specification enables pharmaceutical compositions comprising at least one pteridine derivative and one or more immunosuppressant and/or immunomodulator drugs, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 15 as currently amended meets the requirements under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

With respect to claim 20, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection in view of the amendment introduced into claim 20 to focus on a specific embodiment of the invention.

One problem addressed by the present invention is the provision of compounds that efficiently inhibit human TNF- α production, and that consequently are useful in the prevention or treatment of disorders where TNF- α plays an important role, such as ankylosing spondylitis, Sjögren's syndrome, and allergic conditions, especially asthma, as mentioned at page 3 lines 28-34, page 4 lines 18-22, page 12 lines 31-35, page 30 lines 28-32, and page 38 lines 30-36 of the application as originally filed.

As demonstrated by table 4 at page 69 of the specification, illustrative compounds from example 72 to example 120 (as listed in amended claim 13) show a significant effect in inhibiting the production of human TNF- α . Therefore, pteridine derivatives of amended claim 13 have been demonstrated to be useful as the active ingredient of a

pharmaceutical composition for treating diseases wherein inhibiting the production of human TNF- α is desired, including ankylosing spondylitis, Sjogren's syndrome, and asthma (see reference to the specification hereabove).

It is clear that the pteridine derivatives defined in amended claim 13 are active in the prevention or treatment of diseases such as ankylosing spondylitis, Sjogren's syndrome, and asthma, and this activity is demonstrated and enabled by the specification (example 122 at pages 68-69 as originally filed) through the demonstration of a clear beneficial effect on human TNF- α production. Therefore, the applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of amended claim 20 is fully enabled over the whole scope of this claim.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that the presently amended claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. Enclosed is a petition to extend the period for reply for one month, to and including May 24, 2007. If there are any additional charges or any credits, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 03-2095.

Respectfully submitted,

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